

Q1  
version numbers although functionally and logically may operate substantially identically. An example of such a processor is the Sun Microsystems Ultra Sparc (Trademark) 1 and 2. As explained on page 241 of the Sun Ultra Sparc 1 and 2 Users Manual January 1997, the version register of the Ultra Sparc Processor includes two fields which identify the processor and identify the implementation of the processor as well as a mask set version. The fields of the version register are reproduced as an example of version identification data in the table shown in Figure 5. These fields will vary in accordance with a particular implementation of the processor. These fields form part of a 64 bit data word which include a field indicative of the maximum trap level supported (MAXTL) and a field indicative of the maximum number of windows of an integer register file (MAXWIN). As such, the version register will be interrogated by the operating system, and the contents may be stored in the memory units 56, 76 of the processing sets 14, 16. This is because the MAXTL and MAXWIN fields are required by the operating system in order to execute correctly. As a result there can exist in the memory units 56, 76 data values which will differ between the processing sets. As a result when the version identification data is loaded onto the I/O bus by the operating system, such as for example during a memory swap as part of a virtual memory access, a divergence will be caused between the data values which are put on to the PA-bus 24 and PB-bus 26. This may be detected by the bridge 12 as an error even though both processing sets 14, 16 of the computer system are operating correctly.

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### **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please enter the claims as shown below. A marked-up version of the amended claims is provided in attachment 2.

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- Q2
1. (Amended)A computer system comprising
    - a plurality of processing sets, each having at least one processor, and
    - a bridge coupled to each of said processing sets and operable to monitor a step locked operation of said processing sets, wherein